



# FROM THE CITY OF ALEXANDRIA ARCHAEOLOGY COLLECTIONS

## ALEXANDRIAN STONEWARE: "WELL KNOWN THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY"



From left: "H. Smith & Co." maker's mark on stoneware cake pot (matches marks on box's smaller, insufficiently-fired sherds), made by Hugh Smith of Wilkes Street Pottery 1825–1841, found at Courthouse site (Gavin Ashworth); archaeological remnants of Tildon Easton kiln

### Artifact Group #1 Vessel Sherds (one of pitcher)

Stoneware

1825–1867

Small sherds excavated: Wilkes  
Street Pottery, 621 Wilkes St.;  
pitcher: Coleman site, 412–418  
S. Royal and 417 S. Fairfax Sts.

*"Its wares are well known throughout the country,  
and considered the very best of their kind."*



Crock with ship design attributed to  
Wilkes Street Pottery, found in 400  
King Street block (Ashworth)



Pitcher made by Benedict C. Milburn of  
Wilkes Street Pottery 1847–1867 (similar  
to box's Milburn pitcher piece), found in  
300 King Street block (Ashworth)

The Wilkes Street Pottery received the above praise from the *Alexandria Gazette* (April 10, 1867) for its beautiful decorative ceramics. Wilkes Street Pottery is the modern name given to Alexandria's most successful stoneware factory, which operated on the 600 block of Wilkes Street from around 1810 to 1876. The Virginia Research Center for Archaeology conducted rescue excavations for the City on this site in 1977, recovering thousands of pottery fragments, pieces of kiln furniture used to stack the pots, and part of a brick interior arch from a kiln, where the pots were fired.

Tildon Easton manufactured stoneware for a very short time, between 1841 and 1843. His kiln, on the 1400 block of King Street, was excavated in 1985 (pictured at top). Over 5,000 sherds were recovered. He may have worked at the Wilkes Street Pottery before opening his own.

*Note the finger-sized void in the blue decoration on the small, orange  
sherd. It is possible that the potter touched the cobalt oxide pigment  
before it was dry, leaving a nearly 200-year-old impression.*